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MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL REPORT
1956

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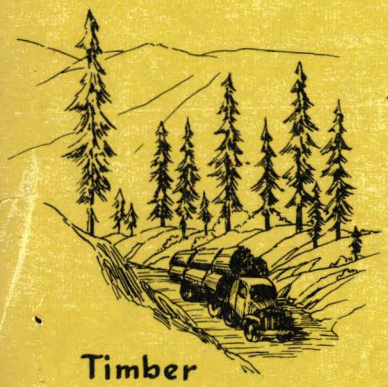

Timber

Camping

Fire

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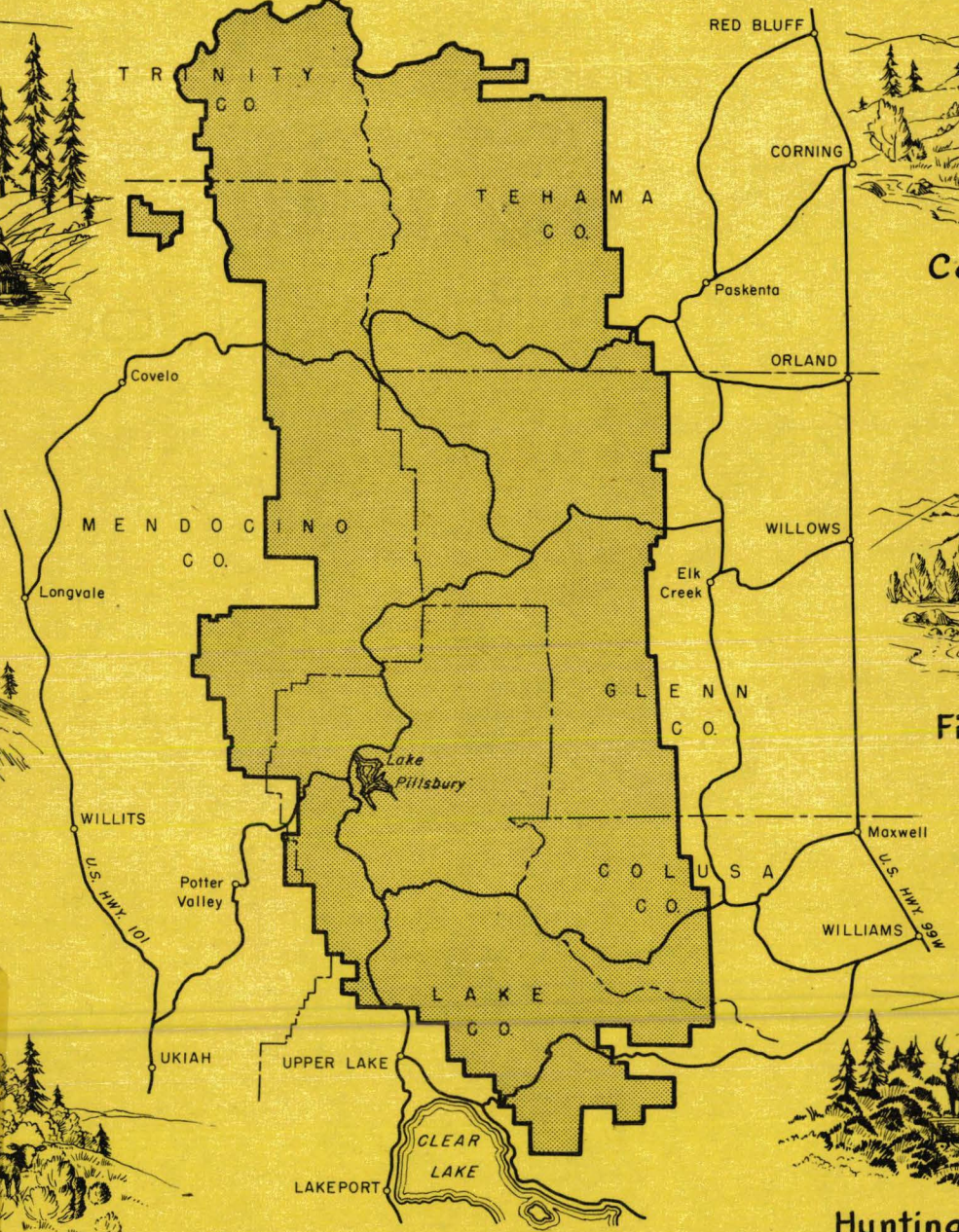

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the FOREST SUPERVISOR

MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST, FOREST SERVICE

* *

Accomplishments on the Mendocino National Forest during 1956 are summarized in this report. Next year, 1957, marks the Golden Anniversary of the forest. Established February 6, 1907, as the "Stony Creek Reserve", the name was changed in 1908 to "California National Forest", and in 1932 to the present name of "Mendocino National Forest".

RECREATION:

Increased recognition by Congress of the buildup in recreational use in the National Forests resulted in substantial increases in recreation money available to the forest. The sum of $2,500.00 was received for cleanup and policing of campgrounds with an additional $300.00 earmarked for cleanup of camping sites in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness Area. Last year $1,200.00 was received. A start was also made in the long overdue job of rehabilitating recreation improvements, the majority of which date back to the mid-thirties conservation program, by the receipt of $1,000.00 of rehabilitation funds.

Continued improvement of sanitation facilities at the Poggie Point campground was provided for by a $3,750.00 fund. Total recreation allotments amounted to $7,550.00.

RANGE AND WILDLIFE:

The trout-rearing ponds at Plaskett Meadows were built this year by the Glenn County Road Department. Cooperating on this were the California Wildlife Conservation Board, California Department of Fish and Game, Glenn County, Glenn County Sportsmen Associations, and the Forest Service. The completed dams represent much work by many people over a period of years. This adds two lakes, in a beautiful recreational setting, to the attractions of the forest.

AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE—SAN FRANCISCO

During the past summer 1,611 cattle were grazed on National Forest lands and an additional 886 head were grazed on privately-owned lands within the forest. There were 31 grazing leases on National Forest lands.

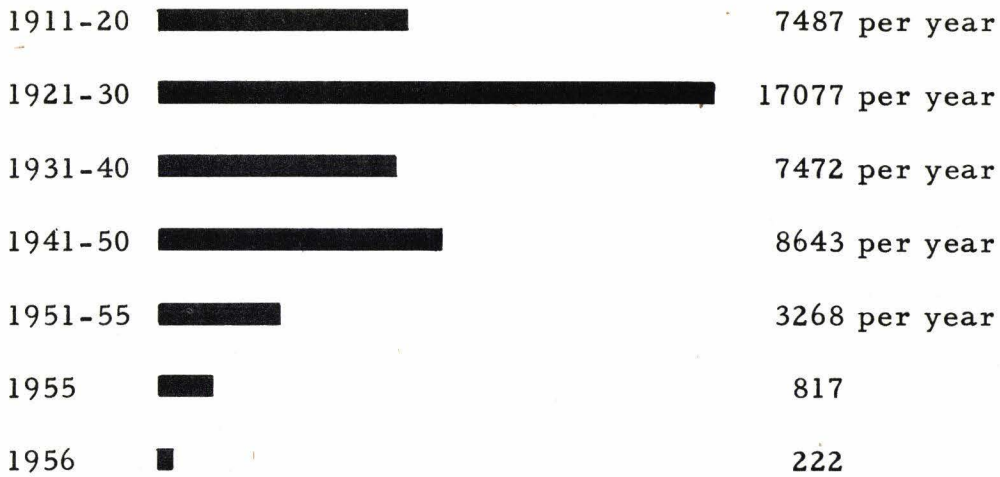
One hundred acres of cleared brushland was seeded to grass on the Elk Mountain Cattle Allotment of the Upper Lake District. Deer will also benefit from this work. Another 100 acres of cleared brushland was seeded to grass in the Grindstone Canyon area. This project is of particular benefit to deer production and harvest.

An estimated 1,800 bucks and 600 does were harvested from the herd of about 35,000 deer which grazes on the forest.

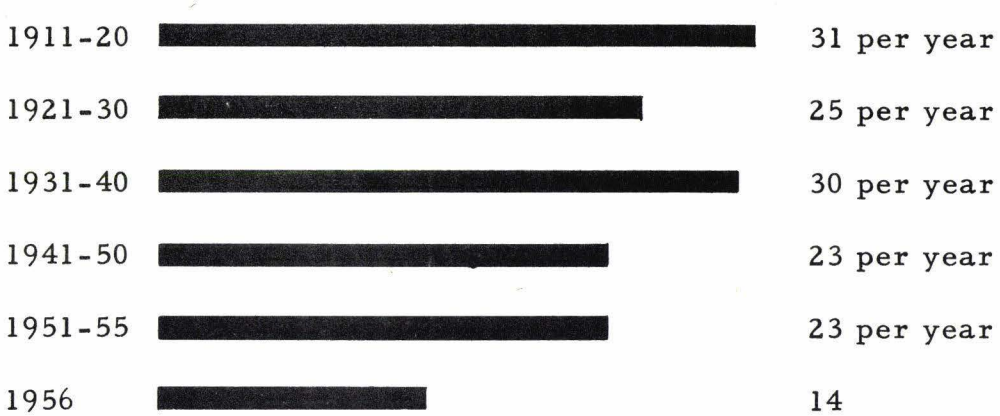
FIRE CONTROL:

1956 was a very successful year in fire control:

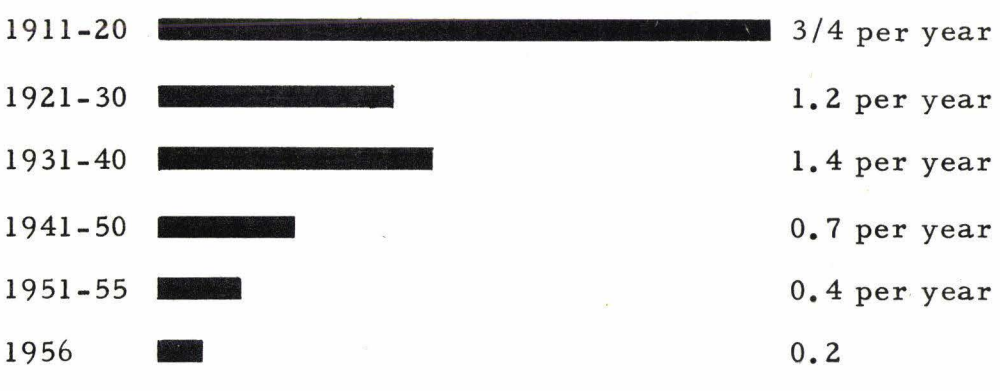
Average Annual Burned Acreage



Average Annual Number of Man-Caused Fires



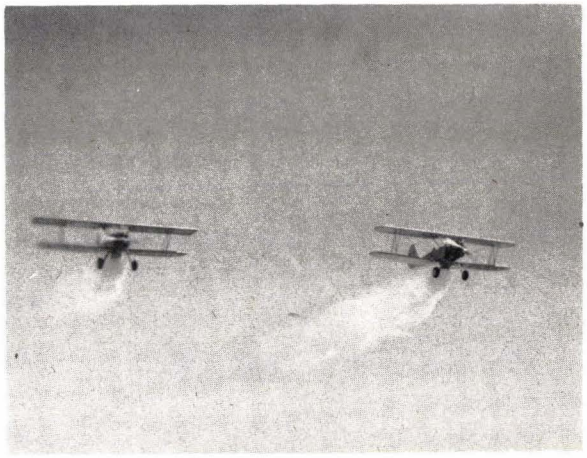
Average Annual Number of Man-Caused Fires per Thousand Visitors



Only 222 acres were burned by wildfire this year. This is the lowest burned acreage since 1935. There were only 14 man-caused fires this year - the least since 1943. Fires due to lumbering operations, smoking, and campfires were all less than last year. For the first time in eight years, and the third time since 1930, there were no incendiary fires.

For the third time in the last four years, there were no man-caused fires on the Paskenta Ranger District.

Using equipment designed and developed by the Willows Flying Service, and organized by the Mendocino National Forest, the first squad of air tankers in history operated out of this area this year. The seven plane squad consisted of agricultural pilots from Red Bluff, Corning, Willows, and Artois. They assisted firefighters by dropping retardants on fires all the way from Yreka to San Diego.



THREE AIR TANKERS
FROM THE LOCAL SQUAD
(A Sacramento Bee Photo)

A helicopter was used extensively for initial attack, particularly on lightning fires in the less accessible areas. Smokejumpers were used on one back-country fire.

The program of breaking up large areas of brush for better fire protection was continued. 800 acres of strips and patches were cleared by controlled fire and 100 acres by bulldozer.

Severity of the fire season was about average. Twelve days fell into the "Very High" and "Extreme" fire danger brackets. The average for the past five years is fifteen.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS:

A new FM radio network was installed on the forest and placed in operation during the 1956 fire season. The planned net is now

about 90 percent completed and we hope will be 100 percent complete by the beginning of the 1957 fire season. The new, modern FM radio units have proven to be considerably more efficient than the AM equipment used in the past and are a real improvement in our communication system.

One new permanent dwelling has been completed at the Stonyford Ranger Station site. This marks a beginning in our program to get on top of the housing shortage existing on the forest.

TIMBER:

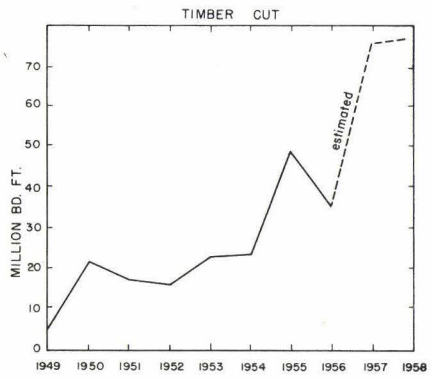
Timber harvesting on the Mendocino National Forest this year followed the downward trend experienced generally in California due to diminishing demand for lumber by the home construction industry. Thirty-six million feet were harvested.

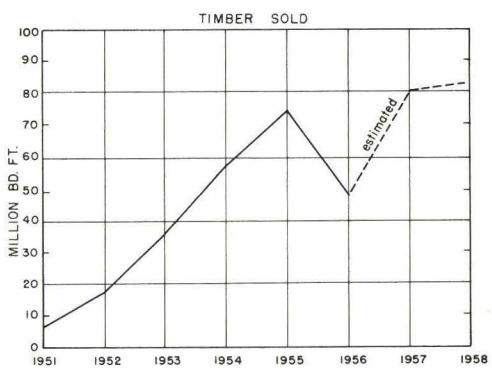
Rights-of-way were secured and two sales totalling nearly twenty-eight million feet were made in the Clear Lake-San Hedrin Working Circle for cutting in 1957 and 1958. Road construction to develop these two sales was started in 1956.

The Howard Lake sale, advertised for 44.5 million feet in August, was canceled at the request of interested operators. It will be readvertised in the spring of 1957 for logging in 1957, 1958, and 1959. The purchaser will complete an additional seven miles of the Indian Dick road.

It is planned to contract the first section of the Willow Creek road during the first part of 1957. As soon as construction of this section of the road is assured, a sale of approximately 45 million feet will be offered on the north side of Log Springs Ridge for harvesting in 1957, 1958, and 1959. The purchaser will extend the Willow Creek road through the timber sale area.

All working circles should be in full production in 1957 and the allowable cut of 68 million feet harvested during the year.





TIMBER ACCESS ROADS:

A 9.5 mile section of the Indian Dick timber access road on the Middle Fork of the Eel River was constructed under Forest Service contract and is ready for use during the 1957 season.

Approximately 15 miles of mainline logging road and 6 miles of secondary logging roads were completed under timber sale contracts during the year.

Road survey work is well under way in all timber working circles. Some of these roads are: Willow Creek Road from near Paskenta up the south side of Thomes Creek, Corbin Creek Project from the Summit Springs road to the South Fork of the Eel River, continuation of the Indian Dick road up the Middle Fork of the Eel River, and continuation of the South Fork of Stony Creek road.

Our 1956 Timber Access Road Plan has been completed. This study indicates a need for a total of 860 miles of construction and reconstruction of all types of roads to complete the first cut of timber on both National Forest and private lands on the forest.

Damage to roads caused by the flood of December 1955 has been repaired on most projects on the forest with forest flood finances and regular annual road maintenance finances, along with considerable work by timber operators operating both on National Forest timber sales and on private timber within the forest.

WATERSHEDS:

We have continued to cooperate with the State of California, Department of Water Resources in making snow surveys on two snow courses.

Field men are also making stream flow reports to the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Flood Control Division, during storm periods.

All forest personnel have made every effort to prevent damage to the forest watershed from road construction, logging operations, and other forest activities.

FOREST RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES:

Annual receipts from sale of timber and other forest income are still increasing. Total receipts increased from $501,992.00 in Fiscal Year 1955 to $661,670.00* in 1956. Twenty-five per cent of this amount is being returned to the counties for roads and schools. Expected distribution is as follows:

Colusa	$ 12,588.00
Glenn	35,681.00
Lake	46,863.00
Mendocino	32,289.00
Tehama	24,052.00
Trinity	13,945.00
Total	165,418.00

Forest expenditures increased from $325,129.00 in Fiscal Year 1955 to $642,678.00 in Fiscal Year 1956. This was mostly due to the greatly expanded program of timber access road construction.

Timber sales	654,827.00
Grazing Fees	3,599.00
Other Leases	3,244.00
*Total	661,670.00

MENDOCINO FOREST FACTS

The Mendocino National Forest is located in a portion of the Coast Range west of the Sacramento Valley in the northwestern part of California in Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, Trinity, Mendocino, and Lake Counties.

The forest area is generally rough and precipitous with elevations ranging from 1,000 feet to 8,083 feet at South Yolla Bolly Mountain in the north part of the forest.

Average annual precipitation on the forest ranges from 20 inches at lower elevations to 65 inches at the higher levels. Snow measurements (on an established snow course at Anthony Peak) of 6 feet are common.

Forest cover consists of brush and hardwood types, with some open grasslands at elevations from 1,000 feet to 3,500 feet. Merchantable timber types with some open grass glades are found at elevations above 3,500 feet. Some alpine type areas occur at elevations of 6,000 feet and above on the summit of the Coast Range.

Temperatures in the valleys range from slightly below freezing to over 100 degrees, with a mean annual of about 64 degrees. No records are available for the higher elevations, but temperatures range from about 10 degrees to 90 degrees.

AREAS

(June 30, 1956)

County	Gross Area In National Forest Including Private Land	Net Area Of National Forest Land
Colusa	71,119	66,036
Glenn	221,408	186,981
Lake	304,763	245,536
Mendocino	212,615	169,531
Tehama	193,840	126,044
Trinity	78,889	73,144
TOTAL	1,082,634	867,272

MENDOCINO FOREST FACTS (continued)

Wilderness Area	70,384 acres
Commercial Forest Land	369,200 acres
Volume Commercial Timber	7,193,000,000 Bd. Ft.
Annual Allowable Cut	68,000,000 Bd. Ft.
Recreation Use	75,000 visitors
Number of Improved Campgrounds	31 (containing 178 family units)
Roads in Forest System Maintained by Forest Service	601.5 miles
Trails in Forest System Maintained by Forest Service	1097.7 miles
Telephone Lines in Forest System Maintained by Forest Service	75.3 miles
Buildings of all types on the Forest	112
Radio Units of all types on the Forest	114
Fishing Streams	649 miles
Reservoir Area	2217 acres
Number of Deer (Approximate)	35,000
Usable Grazing Land leased	155,000 acres

FIRES BY CAUSES - LAST FIVE YEARS

CAUSE	Five Year Average (1952-1956)
Lumbering	3
Campfires	7
Smoking	6
Debris Burning	1
Incendiary	3
Miscellaneous	2
Total Man caused	22
Total Lightning caused	30
Acreage burned	1081